CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 1 FEBRUARY 2002 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF ANSWER GIVEN BY THE SPOKESMAN OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY REGARDING THE REMARKS MADE BY US UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE BOLTON AT THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ON 24 JANUARY 2002

I have the honour to transmit the text of answer given by the Spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Korean Central News Agency regarding the remarks made by US Under Secretary of State Bolton at the Conference on Disarmament on 24 January, 2002.

I would be grateful if you issue this text as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distribute it to all Member States and non-member participant States of the Conference.

(Signed:) Ri Tcheul
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE. 02-60300

ENG

ANSWER GIVEN TO KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY BY THE SPOKESMAN OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

On 24 January Under Secretary of State John Bolton urged the DPRK to accept an inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), asserting that the nuclear issue of the DPRK poses a serious threat to international security, at the UN conference on disarmament

This is nothing but a provocative remark made by a person totally ignorant of the contents of the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework, to say nothing of the core of the nuclear issue.

The 1994 agreed framework was adopted to solve the nuclear issue. It is well known to everyone whose interests it reflects.

The keynote of it is the U.S. provision to the DPRK of two light water reactors, each with a capacity of one million kw, by the year 2003 in return for its freezing of an independent nuclear power industry.

According to the measure for simultaneous action stipulated in the framework, the DPRK froze its nuclear program and allowed the surveillance by the IAEA. But there has been no progress in the LWR project for the last seven years except a ground-work done for the construction.

The U.S. has, in fact, not properly discharged its obligations under the framework. nevertheless, it is now demanding "inspection" of the DPRK in a bid to attain its another sinister purpose.

It is the United States which has caused complicated problems in the implementation of the framework, including compensation for the electricity loss, a product of the delayed LWR construction and little progress in the supply of heavy oil. It is again the U.S. which is threatening the Korean people with nuclear weapons.

The U.S. is well advised to reflect on its actions before taking issue with the DPRK and, though belatedly, sincerely fulfil its commitments made in the framework.